

The division at the top is surely:

- a) it makes the Party and PLF fraction worried and not knowing who to turn to;
- b) it gives the public an impression of party splits and therefore doubt, fatal to any government;
- c) it seems as if the division could be characterised by New Labour versus GB, the very thing the Tories want.

You (understandably) want to end the uncertainty by the going now. The argument is: the next election is GB versus Ed. So we'd better get our man in the door now.

The problem is, to the public and my constituents, this will look as if the person they elected has been removed. For Labour Party the person in the foreground and because he is New Labour, it is with great difficulty that we can get an irretrievably powerful evidence in our control. They don't want to see the desertion of the best, even how they can appear to the Party. It would be a defining moment and massively in the interests of the party to do as to make it so.

You need to be the candidate of continuity and change. The reward will be relatively easy to do. A decent person is in the middle, change.

The first, however, rests on a smooth transition. It is hard to find a smooth transition the absence of disunity in the transition. It is also hard to find a demonstration that the person who most embodied the Party's vision is working hand in hand with the successor. In other words, a period where the two of them are working in harmony, moving through change together. As the transition proceeds, the possibility of such a smooth transition.

It allows me to give support to you as the proper intention of New Labour of this extraordinary and deeply collective idea to be a man indifferent to a policy victory or worse, want it; and allows me to see the future of the Party and the social policy tests for when his Policy Committee is ready to be the man.

It allows you to be seen, with the Party's support, as the person who, most naturally, continues New Labour. It enables you to escape the equally corrosive

notion that you have been displaced, simply re-emerge and get your hands on the job. Above all, it enables you to show that N.I. is as much you as me.

If this is the right analysis, then the cause for how we are allowed to see through the framework of reform I believe is and remain only one: we see voluntarily and in unity; and how do we allow you the clarity that you will be given support and the space to start setting out a new agenda and broadening the base of you as a political leader?

I propose the following:

(1) Across a range of areas, you are put in charge of three working groups. These areas could include

- Party reform
- Democratic Renewal
- Business and the skills base
- Voluntary sector
- I had a thought to put you in charge of the UK's contribution to the US-greater Middle East initiative to the Middle East and to anti-terrorism in the Muslim world

(2) We would establish a proper system of team working with three on either side.

(3) We would brief, as soon as possible, that we are working closely together and give tangible proof of it at the earliest moment.

(4) I would make it clear in the 2007 Conference it was my last; and go in the summer of 2007.

(5) In return, I need two things:

(a) full help and co-operation in getting through the reform agenda: NHS, schools, respect, welfare and energy. I know in some areas eg pensions, there will be differences; we have to resolve them; and

(b) a clear understanding that we should genuinely work in partnership together as a joint team. (What I mean by P.A. the final decision has to be

mine; and that this cannot provoke a breakdown. I will try, at all costs, to avoid disagreement, but there can't be stalemate if it happens.